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November 29, 2006



218156

Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub. No. 435X); BNSF Railway Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Rock Island and Whiteside Counties, IL

Dear Secretary Williams:

BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) and Iowa, Chicago & Eastern Railroad Corporation (ICE), jointly filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service for BNSF to abandon, and ICE to discontinue service over, approximately 5.09 miles of railroad between milepost 20.31 and milepost 25.40, near Albany, in Rock Island and Whiteside Counties, IL. Notice of the exemption was served on December 27, 2005, and published in the Federal Register on December 28, 2005 (70 FR 76912-13). The exemption became effective on January 26, 2006.

Winter weather conditions have hampered the ability to conduct salvage activities. Accordingly, BNSF requests an extension of the consummation deadline until December 31, 2007.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 338-1325.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.
SLS/ew

cc: Jake Deboever
John Sims

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Public Record